REMARKS

Applicant's attorney wishes to thank Examiner Prone for the courtesies extended to him during an interview on December 5, 2005, and a follow-up telephone conversation on December 7.

At the interview Examiner Prone approved the drawing corrections shown on page 2 of this Amendment, and thus his drawings objects are deemed to be overcome.

The specification has been amended at page 3, lines 18 and 19, to insert the words "on the order of" modifying the 1.5 inch dimension recitations and thereby provide literal support for the same recitations in claims 10, 11, 15, and 16. Examiner Prone indicated that this specification amendment would overcome the 350 S.C.112, first paragraph, rejections of these claims.

The principal reference relied upon by the Examiner in his Section 103 rejections of claims 1-9 and 12-14 is Bernard, USPN 2,566,112. Bernard discloses a "slicer" type kitchen knife "for carving meats or cutting bread" (specification, column 2, line 2). The blade of the Bernard knife seen in Fig. 3 is "hollow ground" to impart a concavity to the blade sides that is so shallow as to be barely perceptible in the drawing. The radii of curvatures for the concave sides 20 in Fig. 3 are so long that they extend beyond the drawing sheet. Hollow grinding of knife blades is a common practice designed to reduce blade weight without sacrificing rigidity. Also, frictional drag on the blade sides is reduced when slicing through thick slabs of meat.

Bernard states that Fig. 3 shows his knife's sectional form at an intermediate stage of manufacture, while Fig. 2 shows the sectional form of his finished product. As Bernard

describes in the paragraph beginning at column 2, line 38, the hollow ground sides 20 of Fig. 3 are subjected to further "hollow grinding" operations to create a first hollow ground cutting section 28 and a secondary hollow ground cutting section 30. The first hollow ground cutting section 28 converges into cutting edge 16 and is said to have a "relatively large" radius of curvature, whereas secondary cutting section 30 has a "relatively small" radius of curvature. Clearly, Bernard is describing the relationship between the radii of curvatures of first cutting section 28 and secondary cutting section 30, i.e., the radii of curvatures of the first cutting section are large relative to the radii of curvatures of the secondary cutting section, and the radii of curvatures of the secondary cutting section are small relative to the radii of curvatures of the first cutting section. Any other interpretation of the term "relatively" makes no sense. The radii of curvatures of cutting section 28 are large relative to what? Or, the radii of curvatures of secondary cutting section 30 are small relative to what?

By the foregoing Amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 12 to better define his invention; that is, claim 1 now defines the first and second concave sides as having "deep concavities to prevent the common sharp edge from cutting deeply into human flesh." The concave sides 20 in Fig. 3 and the concave sides of cutting sections 28, 30 in Fig. 2 of Bernard all have shallow concavities. Were they to have deep concavities, the Bernard knife could not accomplish its intended purpose of easily slicing completely through thick slabs of meat. In contradistinction, the deep concavities of the concave sides of Applicant's saber accomplish the intended purpose of preventing the saber's sharp edge from cutting deeply into human flesh.

Applicant submits that amended claim 1 now defines his invention in terms of structure and purpose that patentably distinguish over Bernard taken separately or in combination with any of the secondary references cited by the Examiner. During the interview, Examiner Prone expressed the opinion that amending claim 1 to recite that the "first and second concave sides have deep concavities" would distinguish over Bernard. Applicant's attorney hopes the foregoing remarks reinforce this opinion.

Allowance of amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-11 is respectfully requested.

The foregoing Amendment also amends independent claim 12 to recite that the first and second concave sides have "short radii of curvatures to prevent the common sharp edge from cutting deeply into human flesh." In the analysis of the Bernard disclosure set forth above, Applicant contends that where the specification of this reference states that the radius of curvature of cutting section 30 is relatively small, it intended to express a relationship to the radius of curvature of the first cutting section 20, which is said to be relatively large. Implicit from the illustrated shallow concavities of the concave sides 24 of secondary cutting section 30 in Bernard, the radii of curvatures of these concave sides are longer than the radii of curvatures of concave sides 20, 22 of Applicant's saber blade; indeed, far too long to achieve Applicant's purpose of preventing the saber's sharp edge from cutting deeply into human flesh.

In column 3, lines 21-27, Bernard notes that during the life of his slicing knife, periodic blade sharpening operations ultimately grind away the metal forming points 26 between primary cutting section 28 and secondary cutting section 30, leaving the latter as

the only cutting section. The radii of curvatures of this remaining cutting section effectively then become even longer, as they should, so that the Bernard knife can still readily cut through thick slabs of meat. These radii curvatures are clearly not short in the context of Applicant's invention.

During the interview Examiner Prone also expressed the opinion that adding the limitation in claim 12 that the first and second concave sides have short radii of curvatures would distinguish over Bernard. Claim 12 and its dependent claims 13 and 14 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of Applicant's application are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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